

## U.S. News and World Report College Data

The USNEWS dataset contains information on 937 American colleges and universities. This dataset is taken from the U.S. News & World Report's Guide to America's Best Colleges. The data is not recent, so do not be alarmed (or jealous) about the lower than expected tuition amounts. (Colleges that did not report an average SAT or ACT score or did not report a graduation rate for their students were removed.)

The response variable is **GradRate**. The other variables are potential predictors. **State** cannot not be used as a predictor as it is because it contains 50 different values. However, you could recode State into different regions of the country.

### Variables for USNews Data

1. College name
2. State (postal code)
3. Funding (categorical variable: Public or Private)
4. Number of applications received (in number of students)
5. Number of applicants accepted (in number of students)
6. Number of new students enrolled (in number of students)
7. Pct. new students from top 10% of H.S. class (in percent)
8. Number of fulltime undergraduates (in number of students)
9. Out-of-state tuition (in dollars)
10. Room and board costs (in dollars)
11. Pct. of faculty with Ph.D.'s (in percent)
12. Student/faculty ratio (in students per faculty member)
13. Pct.alumni who donate (in percent)
14. Instructional expenditure per student (in dollars)
15. Graduation rate (in percent of students who graduate within 6 years)
16. StdScore = the average of standardized SAT and ACT scores for students at the school (in standard deviations above or below average)

Missing values are denoted with \*

**Note:** Some schools use only the SAT or only the ACT. We need a variable that contains the combined SAT/ACT score. Because the SAT and ACT are measured on different scales, we cannot just average them. We need to standardize the variables first before combining them. This is what the **StdScore** variable does. If only SAT or ACT (not both) were used by the school, then only the standardized value of one or the other is used. If the school used both the ACT and SAT, then the two standardized scores were averaged.